

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe comprising: a plurality of transducers for transmitting and receiving an ultrasound respectively located in correspondence with adjacent positions of transmission and reception; and ~~a one- or two-layer~~ flexible circuit board of at least one layer located in correspondence with ~~the said~~ positions of transmission and reception, in which signal lines for supplying a transmission signal and for extracting a reception signal to/from ~~the said~~ positions are installed in a longitudinal direction of the transducers at a predetermined angle, wherein the flexible circuit board has slits dividing signal lines into sections at each of ~~the said~~ positions at ~~the a~~ predetermined angle, and each section of the flexible circuit board divided by the slits ~~are~~ is spirally wound.

2. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 1, wherein a member is provided around each ~~section~~ spirally wound section of the flexible circuit board.

3. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 2, wherein ~~the said~~ member is made of an insulating material covering ~~a the~~ circumference of each section of the flexible circuit board, and a first shield material, or an insulating material to which a layer of metallic powder is evaporated, ~~covering~~ covers the circumference of each part.

4. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 2, wherein ~~the said~~ member is a single second shield material or a protection material covering an outer circumference of bundled sections of the flexible circuit board, or a protection material to which a layer of metallic powder is evaporated on its surface.

5. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 3, wherein ~~the said~~ member includes a single second shield material or a protection material covering the outer circumference of bundled sections of the flexible circuit board, or a protection material to which a layer of metallic powder is evaporated on its surface.

6. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 4, wherein the protection material is in the form of a flexible tube.

7. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the protection material covers the outer circumference of bundled sections of the flexible circuit board, which has a stiff section and a flexible section.

8. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 3, wherein ~~the said~~ member includes a single second shield material covering the outer circumference of bundled sections of the flexible circuit board and a protection material installed inside or outside the second shield material, or a protection material to which a layer of metallic powder is evaporated on its surface.

9. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe according to claim 2, wherein a signal line is provided on one layer of ~~the a~~ two-layer flexible circuit board, and a ground line is provided on the other layer.